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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/336,706	06/21/1999	SUMIYO OKADA	21.1924/JRB	7969

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EXAMINER

PRIETO, BEATRIZ

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2152

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/336,706

Applicant(s)

OKADA, SUMIYO ET. AL.

Examiner

B. PRIETO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

1. This communication is in response to election of claims 1-3 and cancellation of claims 4-12, claims 1-3 remain pending in present application.
2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
3. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redpath et. al. (Redpath) U.S. Patent No. 5,990,887.

Regarding claim 1, Redpath teaches substantial features of the invention as claimed, teaching a system/method related to an information exchange system (8) (abstract) for transmitting and receiving messages through at least one network (10) (col 1/lines 15-20, col 2/lines 20-26) between a plurality of users using individual computers (12);

obtaining one of the message to be transmitted to another user from at least one network or obtaining one of the messages to be received from at least one network (col 3/lines 3-13);

displaying the obtained message in a designated display area for each participant in a time series bases as obtained and exchanged in time from the sender and/or recipient (Figs. 6A-6B), wherein messages are displayed independent of the messages displayed in another designated area corresponding to each participant as participated in time.

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to implement performing the same functions as claimed having means for displaying messages in a time series fashion independent of other messages received and/or transmitted from and/or to respectively, as taught by Redpath, motivation would be improve existing chat systems that provide a character-by-

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character feedback that will allow participants to see and corresponding designated display areas a representation of the messages other participant are in real-time editing with having completed the message to be sent.

Regarding claim 2, as discussed on claim 1 and further the user computer terminal a have a message display area (Fig. 3) for displaying messages received (Fig. 6A, (604, 606)) and transmitted (Fig. 6A, (602, 608, 616, 622)); acquiring messages transmitted and received to/from the plurality of network (Figs. 6A-C, col 3/lines 3-32); messages are acquired independent of the message display are of each of the plurality of networks to which the users are connected (col 4/line 37-col 5/line 12) enabling messages to be displayed in a designated display area for each participant as obtained in time from the sender and/or recipient (Figs. 6A-6B).

Regarding claim 3, as discussed on claims 1-2 and further transmitting a message when the messaged edited and displayed on a designated area independent from the other designated areas on the screen is identified for transmission by pressing the enter causing the displayed message displayed on a designated area to be transmitted to recipient on at least one of the plurality of network (col 4/lines 36-col 5/line 12).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Prieto, B.** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-0750**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 to 4:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, **Mark H. Rinehart** can be reached on **(703) 305-4815**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(703) 308-6606**. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3800/4700**.

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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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or faxed to:

(703) 746-7239, (for Official communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 746-7240 (for Non-Official or draft communications, please
label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA., Fourth Floor (Receptionist), further ensuring that a receipt is provided
stamped "TC 2100".


B. Prieto
Patent Examiner
April 7, 2002

MEHMET B. GECKIL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

